



Tidings

FROM ASSOCIATIONS AROUND URANTIA

URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL | [HTTP://WWW.URANTIA-UAI.ORG](http://www.uran-tia-uai.org)

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"The Angel" watercolor painting by Philippe Anselin of Maureillas, France

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President's Message

Dear Friends,

HAVE YOU ALREADY PACKED your bag to go to Australia? I have, I would not want to miss this great opportunity to meet with readers from around the world. Last time I checked, there was going to be readers from South Korea, Indonesia, Pakistan, England, Finland, France, Colombia, Germany, Greece, The Netherlands, Singapore, Thailand,



Kathleen and Merindi Swadling who will be welcoming you at the International Conference in Australia, July 14 to 18. In the back, Tina Moseley and Gary Rawlings from United Kingdom. Photo taken at the conference in Chicago in 2004.

Sweden, US, Canada and of course New Zealand and Australia. For people that can attend such events, it is always a feast for the soul. For some, it is the reward for their relentless efforts to move ahead in un-charted water. This is why it is called "Rewards of Isolation" – "Small teams in deep waters".

For some this will be their first experience at a conference, their first contact with readers from other countries. It is a time of celebration, of shared stories, of new friendship and the renewal of old ones. I invite you to join me and the others in Sidney, Australia.

Regarding UAI business, the ISB is in process of evaluating different aspects of activities necessary to our mission and their integration in a strategic plan that would be purposeful, dynamic and simple. The name-change registration process for UAI is going

well and everything is being done to ensure maximum benefits for UAI internationally.

As for the RC, no items are being discussed at this time; summer is a time of rest for many. The Association of Finland has elected a new president; Tapio Talvitie has been replaced by Raimo Ala-Hynnälä. I salute Tapio Talvitie for his years of selfless service as a member of the RC and welcome his successor.

Have a good summer. □

—*Gaëtan Charland*,
President UAI

TIDINGS

From associations around Urantia

Tidings is a monthly publication of Urantia Association International, whose mission is to foster study of *The Urantia Book* and to disseminate its teachings. UAI supports Urantia Foundation.

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<http://www.urantia.org/papers/index.html>

You may submit articles about *The Urantia Book*, news about your association, stories, photos and poems to the editor. All articles are subject to revision. **Submissions limited to 2–3 pages (about 1400–2100 words).** A one-page article is about 700 words with a photo or graphic image.

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Tidings archives:

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Tidings extends deepest condolence and love to James Woodward, Executive Administrator, UAI, on the passing of his beloved mother, *Marie Ford Arambel* of Placerville, California, USA, on July 25, 2006.

How The Urantia Book Found Me

In Search for Truth

PIERRE ROUTHIER
Urantia Association of Quebec



Pierre Routhier

AS A YOUNG PERSON, I developed an attraction for the truth. My parents educated their children in mutual confidence, in respect and the search for truth. Because we acknowledged our errors, we were certain to be understood and forgiven. We loved our dear parents so much that we would never have liked

I could not stop myself from reading this most satisfying book and it took me three months to swim it full breath, enraptured in a sublime state of mind.

to cause them the least sorrow. We wanted so much for them to be proud of us all the time.

In my spiritual search, the filial love that I carried to my biological father was transposed spiritually to our celestial Father. And I became conscious that His love could not be less than the one which my terrestrial father was giving me. This was the background on which my search for truth was profiled.

Being educated in the Roman Catholic religion by such good parents, I could not doubt their religious lessons

before perceiving by myself that a good share of those lessons was disassociated from the love of my terrestrial parents and still more of the merciful love of our Universal Father. I had just found the key which opened the Pandora box and dissipated its content to the four winds. All that was not in conformity with the greatest and most beautiful love was to be swept aside and rejected to enable me to approach the Truth.

After a book search on various religions, philosophies and some biographies of famous characters, I came to read “the life of the Masters” by Spalding, translated by Louis Colombelle—pen name of Jacques Weiss—and published by the editions Robert Laffont. Inside the cover of this first edition, Mr. Weiss informed us about his more recent translation which was named: “The Cosmology of Urantia”. It was by his own account, the most extraordinary translation which he had ever made! I had to read this famous Cosmology and I fell into it like a fish in water. I could not stop myself from reading this most satisfying book and it took me three months to swim it full breath, enraptured in a sublime state of mind.

If it was a book of science fiction, it would beat them all! Was this really a

revelation of our invisible friends? It was to be seen... Personally, what convinced me, were the chapters on the Thought Adjuster which were harmonized so perfectly with my soul like two tuning forks vibrating in unison, like a chord of truth on a stave of love.

Now, I am convinced of the need for making the 5th Revelation known to the world and for gathering readers to work accordingly. With my wife Lise, we have joined others to work in the vines of the Lord while publishing for free, since March 1986, the newsletter Reflectivity in the form of flyer and also collaborating in the setting-up of two associations of readers in Quebec. We took part in some Book shows to make people aware of this gift from heaven which is “*The Urantia Book*”, in the hope that others will also be able to benefit spiritually from it. □

How The Urantia Book Found Me

CAROL CANNON
Urantia Association of Greater New York

—June 24th, 2006, Sat. 1pm

IT HAS TAKEN ME A LONG time to put many things aside and get down to writing “How *The Urantia Book* Found Me” (and even now I am only writing to avoid going to work in the rain on a Saturday). I also realize that this has taken the exact amount of time for me to internally come to terms with how my relationship to *The Urantia Book* and its body of knowledge has changed.

It was 1970-71 that I would enjoy driving around in a VW on back roads in Connecticut with my best friend’s

brother Bruce (who is a poet), discussing questions about life like “Where did our souls or spirits come from?” or “What is the best thing to do in this life given the present day circumstances?” I had been reading various sources of insight

beginning with the Existentialists, to Kant, searching out Hinduism, Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, etc., trying to find some substantial meaning to what otherwise looked like a very fool-hardy endeavor—life in the latter part of the 20th Century with its materialistic bent, dysfunctional family and social make-up and expectation to follow suit. I recall the *Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception: Mystic Christianity*;

If we each attuned to this magnificent God Within, wouldn't we all do all we could for one another? Wouldn't we all be fusing all over the place and cheering with joy?

An Elementary Treatise Upon Man's Past Evolution, Present Constitution and Future Development by Max Heindel, *Its Message and Mission: A Sane Mind A Soft Heart A Sound Body*, 28th Edition copyright 1973 (original copyright 1909!) as giving me an invaluable understanding of the meaning of evolution. Evolution of all matter to spirit, the importance of my own spiritual development and that humanity itself was on this refining journey collectively.

Along the way I took yoga, became a Transcendental Meditator, ate health food (a lot of it) and stemmed the tide of suicidal logic and feelings, ultimately reasoning that if matter can neither be created or destroyed, I might likely wind up in some other dimension with the same or worse challenges.

While still enjoying the wealth of esoteric knowledge from the Rosicrucians, Bruce returned from a lengthy trip to Sweden and told me about this book he found at a friend's apartment there—just sitting on a coffee table, having been brought by another passerby and that it truly deserved reading. He'd read through it in three months.



Carol at her studio in New York

I went to NYC's renowned occult bookstore, Samuel Weiser's and, impatient to get immediate answers on specific matters, bought Clyde Bedell's *Concordex* along with *The Urantia Book*.

I was in my senior year in high school and confessed when questioned by Bruce about the progress I'd made with reading the book that I was alienated by the hierarchy of beings, perceiving their description much like that of a complex, impersonal corporate structure. But with his nudging, the *Concordex* and jumping all around the contents of the book, I finally began to discern what this book was actually saying! And that was it, I was awe-struck, humbled and hooked, you could say, because it not only informed me of its broad perspective in time, space and eternity, why our planet was in such a state, but elevated my consciousness much like a different form of meditation. I proposed to my teachers and principal at school to allow me to complete my studies independently so I could stay at home and study *The Urantia Book*

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How *The Urantia Book* Found Me

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as well. The information struck me as a clarion call for me to devote myself and my life to “Doing the Father’s Will”, giving all I could to help usher this planet into Light and Life, reach all of my relations with this great message of not just hope but pure bliss! The Father is radiating His magnificence eternally and internally and we are all invited to sup at this spring of love overwhelming. What more do we need? This knowledge, this fact, solves all of our problems. Moved by our unity and

To me, in the end, the question of how best to “Do the Father’s Will” continues to be a deeply personal and intimate “inside job,” removing that moat from my own eye...

literal one-ness, who would withhold from another? Who would act against their fellow person? What nation would harm another? If we each attuned to this magnanimous God Within, wouldn’t we all do all we could

for one another? Wouldn’t we all be fusing all over the place and cheering with joy?

Well, not so quickly, I guess. As Amit Goswami describes in his *The Self-Aware Universe* we as a race, like the monkey in the trap, are having a very hard time letting go of those chick peas!** The past 36 years have been filled with lessons about just how

**In India, people used to trap monkeys by putting chick peas in holes that were about the size of a monkey’s fist in the tree trunks. Once the monkey grabbed the chick peas he couldn’t get his hand out, so it was his own greed that trapped him...with our dependence and stubborn refusal to adapt new awareness and ways, we are trapping our selves to our detriment, if not death.

daunting living a decent, solvent, sane, human life can be, given the conditioning absorbed in early mortal years. In fact, there are many occasions during these politically regressive years where I am amazed humanity gets along as well as it does. The fact we don’t bludgeon one another at the dinner table or cities of millions can generally cooperatively co-habitate with very different tribes populating them is amazing to me, that men have been moved to create a United Nations with the intention to end war is a fantastic milestone for our species, that we have an institution and laws in place to hold individuals accountable for war crimes definitely demonstrates a rising morality, that we are grappling with the moral consequences of genetic engineering is spiritually reassuring, that religious differences have arisen to such sharp contrast we are having the opportunity to closely examine the power of beliefs and see the potentially divisive nature of the mind and healing role of the heart is going to be revolutionizing.

Looking outwardly, it seems to me at this time in the U.S. of America, the torch bearer of democracy, laws are being ignored by the very public servants we look to, to enforce them and our civil liberties are being curtailed without sufficient discussion or due process. To what extent will special interests be allowed to benefit at the expense of the small businesses and the individual? Are the current geo-political dramas being manipulated by even more nefarious intentions and to what degree do we allow the dominant media control our perceptions, choices, and lives? Isn’t it becoming clear our reality is in our own court?

To me, in the end, the question of how best to “Do the Father’s Will” continues to be a deeply personal and intimate “inside job,” removing that moat from my own eye, developing more personal coherence so that I might

“become the peace” I would wish for as Gandhi advised and be able to take right action where called for. Ironically, contrary to the concept of unity, at times it requires setting appropriate boundaries, and letting go of the need to control others, even their beliefs about God or their world-view in favor of a more fundamental respect for other’s orientation and integrity.

I continue to seek out other sources to understand “what the hell is going on here?” and how to improve my own character and performance, but the over-arching architecture of *The Urantia Book’s* concepts and messages helped me build a very large life plan and determine clear standards of being. Even in the most carefully analyzed quantum grand universe with all of the possible parallel grand universes imaginable and transcendent dimensions traversed through one’s very own holographic kaleidoscope, it is a very simple but challenging task that still seems to be just getting underway for this tadpole. To live from my heart and stay in touch with my inner joy. The grace I enjoy with every heartbeat has been given definition by this gift of Spirit. My heartfelt thanks to all who made *The Urantia Book* available to me and continue to avail it for others. □

How The Urantia Book Found Me

RICK LYON

Chairman, Study Group Committee
International Service Board

ALL MY LIFE I seemed to have a different version of “religion” in my heart than everyone else. I seemed to never quite fit into any of the religions that I found but I always knew God was there and I wanted to know more about Him. I don’t remember a time when I didn’t know that God was real. I just couldn’t find the answers that matched what I thought they should be. The answers I was given by traditional means never seemed to add up for me and I could not accept the image of God I found on Sunday mornings.

In 1978, I worked for a steel mill in Crawfordsville, Indiana, USA.

At about 8 a.m. on a summer day in 1978, as I was finishing dumping my load of sludge into the mountain of trash, I spotted a large slightly mangled book with no cover ...

My father-in-law had gotten me a job there in 1972 as a reward for marrying his oldest daughter. No, I am kidding. It probably was so he could keep an eye on me since I had just married his oldest daughter. My job at the mill was in wastewater

treatment. Steel making requires a lot of water and chemicals. My responsibility was to run the plant that neutralized the acids and cleaned the water before it was discharged to the nearest creek.

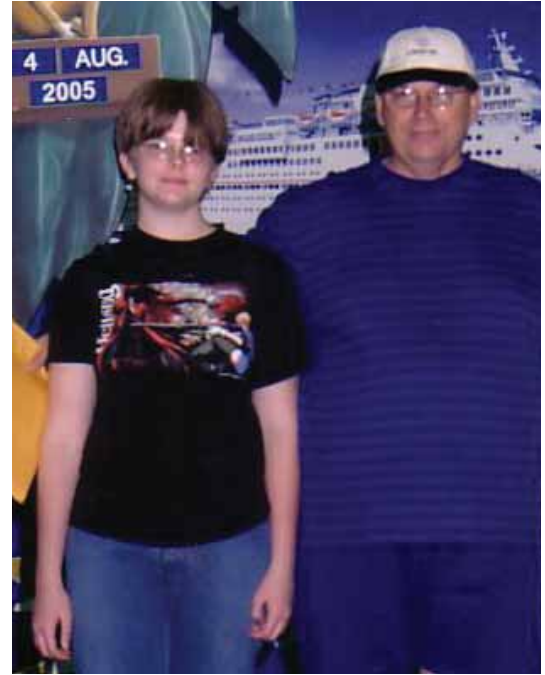
One of the chores I did two to three times a shift was to haul waste iron sludge to the local landfill. This sludge was the result of neutralizing

the acids with lime and then clarifying and filtering out the water. As you can imagine, hauling a dump truck load of waste sludge to the landfill wasn’t the most exciting event of the day but it did get me out of the mill for awhile. Occasionally, the dump truck would mysteriously break down in the parking lot of the local Dairy Queen. Never one to waste and opportunity, I would support the local economy by purchasing a large Strawberry milkshake just before the truck mysteriously fixed itself in time for me to return to work for lunch. It’s funny how that seemed to happen a lot on hot summer days. Darn truck!

As some of you may know, the printer that prints *The Urantia Book*, is located in Crawfordsville. As with any production process, there were always rejects from the process. In this case it was books from the printing lines. Before reject books were discarded by the printer, they were destroyed by ripping off the cover, smashing

them in a trash compactor, and then running over them with a “Sheep’s Foot”, a big bulldozer with huge spikes on the wheels. Occasionally, a book could be found before the Sheep’s Foot ran over it. However, the Sheep’s Foot operator was supposed to watch and discourage anyone from picking through the trash looking for books. I got the message from him one day that I narrowly survived to tell but that is another story.

At about 8 a.m. on a summer day in 1978, as I was finishing dumping my load of sludge into the mountain of trash, I spotted a large slightly mangled book with no cover on top of the heap near my truck. I usually didn’t pick up things like this. You can imagine the smell so it wasn’t very appealing to pick things up or sometimes to even look at them. This day I reached down without thinking and picked up the book. As I



Katherine and Rick

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How *The Urantia Book* Found Me

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flipped through it, I saw, “The Life and Teachings of Jesus”. Well, I had to take that home. I discreetly threw it in my truck and headed back to work.

Later that day, I finished my shift; grabbed my new book, still not thinking much about it, and headed home. This thick book laid on my table in the basement for a couple of weeks until one day I thought about it again and said, “I need to go read this book and see what it is about.” The very first sentence, “In the minds of the mortals of Urantia--that being the name of your

world...” immediately struck me because of the words “your world”. As I child of the 60’s, I loved astronomy and the space program. I dreamed of being an astronaut most of my

young life. Being one of the few that believed that the universe existed for the purpose of life rather than the other way around, I didn’t always fit in with the thinking of most people in those days. After I flipped to the back of the book to see what the last sentence said, “When all is said and done, the Father idea is still the highest human concept of God.”, I had to find out what lay in between. I don’t remember the Eureka! moment but I do remember telling my wife that this is what I have been

talking about. This is the way things should be. This is what the universe and God are really like. I read the book hit and miss, jumping from topic to topic. Little did I imagine the universe of universes that would unfold within those 2097 pages. No wonder it was such a big book. A few months later, I finally hunkered down and read the book from page one to the end. Reading topic to topic grabbed my interest but it was only when I completed my first front to back read that I began to grasp the really “big picture”.

In 1994, after years of thinking that I was the only person on this planet that knew about this book, I called the Urantia Foundation. The first person I ever talked to that knew anything about this book was Bob Solone. I became a member of IUA and that same year met Anne Kinnamon and her children, Sarah, Jeremiah, and Katherine. Gradually I introduced them to the teachings of the book and finally the book itself. After hearing me talk about God and spirituality for a few months, Anne asked, “Where did you get all this?” She opened the door and I ran through it. In 1996, we were married. Anne and I had study group at the kitchen table and gradually the kids began to listen in. Sarah and Jeremiah eventually joined in and Katherine at age 6 wanted to share in the reading. I still remember the day that Katherine asked if she could have her own book. No father could have been more proud than I was that day and every day since then. The day she got her book, we found her under her blanket with a flashlight reading it instead of sleeping. Jeremiah participated in several of the summer youth tours and is now President of the Urantia Association of the Great Plains. Anne is an avid reader and has a great knowledge and sense of the teachings from the book. I can tell you that there is no greater joy

on this planet than having a spouse and family to share with you the teachings of *The Urantia Book* and the excitement of coming to know God. Our greatest experience together was to sit on the edge of the Grand Canyon having study group while watching the sunset over the canyon. I have always been a very fortunate person with enough afflictions thrown in to make me grow but discovering God and my Thought Adjuster with the help of *The Urantia Book* is the greatest blessing of my life. I thank our Father that *The Urantia Book* found me. □

—Rick Lyon
ricklyon@tctc.com

The day she got her book, we found her under her blanket with a flashlight reading it instead of sleeping.

Letter from Idaho

JUDY VAN CLEAVE
President, Idaho Urantia Association

Greetings UAI Members around Urantia,

DUE TO THE TRAVELING ABSENCE of our outgoing President Bert Cobb, it is my pleasure to announce that Idaho Urantia Association (IDUA) held its 13th annual local association meeting at the St. Gertrude's Monastery Farm House on May 28th, in Cottonwood, Idaho, USA. It was our 10th weekend gathering at the Farm House. We were delighted by out-of-state visits from Gabe MacIssac of Eugene, Oregon, and Treb Cobb, currently attending the University of Montana in Missoula.

A few of the highlights of our gathering were a Saturday afternoon study on UB Paper 94, "The Melchizedek Teachings in the Orient," upon request

... Bert enthusiastically took it upon himself to travel the entire state of Idaho from his home in Jerome to personally visit with Urantia Book readers statewide.

of Treb (he's been studying Buddhism at university); selected readings from the book compiled by Saskia Praamsma, "How I Found *The Urantia Book*" along with personal anecdotes from those of us who knew/know the authors;"

and of course, the breathtaking and exhilarating views of the Cottonwood and surrounding valley—both from the huge picture windows of the Farm House, and the winding and woody walk up and behind the monastery and on up the mountain it rests upon. Finally, member Will Vernard from way up north in Bonner's Ferry (Canadian border) gave a particularly inspiring presentation Sunday morning on "Faith," which was very timely, and for which we were all most grateful.



Bert Cobb, left, and Benet Rutenberg at the 2004 international conference in Chicago.

In addition to food for our soul, Will treated us to some exquisite food for our bodies; his home-grown asparagus. He says he covers it with 6 inches of manure in either the spring or fall (I don't recall) and as long as he continues to pick it, it continues to grow from late spring through the autumn—so determined to go to seed that it is. Until I tasted it, I'd forgotten how delicious the asparagus of my youth had been, which leaves me seriously wondering, and grieving, the general loss of flavor in fruits and vegetables since that time. Maybe the secret's in the manure. ☺

Ah, but I digress...

It was determined during our Sunday afternoon business meeting that we would once again gather for our 2007 annual meeting at the St. Gertrude's Monastery Farm House in Cottonwood, ID on Memorial Day weekend, as well as for our traditional weekend of Urantia Book study, fellowship, good food, and fun. Those dates in 2007 will be May 25th – 28th.

This year's election resulted in the following slate of officers for IDUA:
President: Judy Van Cleave
Vice President: Nancy Moser
Secretary: Bill Spaulding
Treasurer: David Perdue

Finally, and on behalf of IDUA, I would like to thank Bert Cobb for his service as president for the last four years, and for the many readers he has drawn from out-of-state to our annual St. Gertrude's gathering. We would like to especially acknowledge Bert, as well, for his continued and concerted efforts to raise the funds lacking for the Portuguese printing. And last, but certainly not least, we would like to thank Bert once again for playing the key role in the chartering of IDUA on May 15, 1994.

While many of you may know our charming and personable Bert, you may not be aware that after attending a couple (at least) of the Nashville conferences in the early 90's and becoming so impressed by the genuine sincerity and warmth of Foundation trustees and UAI representatives, Bert enthusiastically took it upon himself to travel the entire state of Idaho from his home in Jerome to personally visit with Urantia Book readers statewide. His purpose was to inform readers in Idaho about UAI (then IUA), to share the 1993 IUA Charter and Bylaw booklet along with the Declaration of Trust (DoT) with each of us, and to warmly welcome each reader he met with to join with him,

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Elections in Québec

Dear friends,



The new board of AUQ, left to right:
Alain Cyr, president, Johanne Séguin, vice-president,
Maurice Migneault, secretary and Edouard Bellerive, treasurer.

ON THE THIRD of last June, our local association (Association Urantia du Québec), held its general annual Council meeting in regard to internal policies among the membership. The Urantia movement in Québec joined UAI in 1997 under the licensed name above and we are happy of this continuity. On these occasions we also proceed with the reorganization of our board members as different positions come to term.

I am very happy to mention that we now have a new secretary in the person of Maurice Migneault from the Ottawa region. Maurice is a long time student of the UB, a practical thinker with tact, he loves humour and has an artistic way of projecting his lucid views on life patterns. We are privileged to benefit from his contribution. I thank our sister Line St-Pierre, regardless of her continual devotion, for having

literally withheld the flame as secretary from autumn 2000 until now. We are also much appreciative of Johanne Séguin acceptance to assume a further two year term as vice-president of our association.

In fraternal communion,
—Alain Cyr,
President, AUQ

Letter from Idaho

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as a charter member, in the historical event of chartering an Idaho Urantia Association. Our primary purposes for chartering were 1) to show much needed and desired support for Urantia Foundation, 2) to be available as long time readers (most of us were) to process Foundation reader referrals in our area, and 3) to continue with our dissemination and study group efforts, all in a more formally associated, organized, and newly affiliated manner. That, therefore, makes Bert the equivalent of our Founding Father, and the genesis

of the blessings we've experienced in association locally, nationally and internationally; we are most grateful to him for that. ☺

In loving service,
Judy Van Cleave
IDUA President

PS-- One can visit the Monastery at St. Gertrude's at their website:
www.stgertrudes.org

Perhaps the inspiration for next year's theme will be Will's asparagus:

"It IS, After All, the 'Crap' That Gives Life It's Flavor"—translated more eloquently, of course, into "UB speak" as "You cannot perceive spiritual truth until you feelingly experience it, and many truths are not really felt except in adversity." (557-2)

(Bear with me; I'm still human, and American, as is my sense of humor. ☺) □



"With the Eagle" Paul Klee, 1918

The Father's Chief Desire

The winning of his children to eternity
Must be the Father's first and chief desire.
To warm the sons and daughters of infinity
His blazing sun is shooting forth its fire.
To help us sail by nighttime is a reason
His starry vault is turning in its course.
The spirit of the God of every season
Is leading us toward our Perfect Source.
The love between mankind and God is primal,
The basis of their limitless romance.
There is no ebb and flow, nor daily tidal
Changing of the love that fires their dance.
By what deserving has man won this windfall?
And what is he that of him God is mindful?

—*David E Glass*
Lone Star Urantia Association